

**Town of Arlington
Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)**

Tuesday, May 27, 2003 7:15 PM

Committee members present: Ralph Elwell, Larry Englisher, Lt. Jim McHugh, John Sanchez, Scott Smith, Ed Starr, David Walkinshaw

Administrative Items

The minutes of 4/29 were approved unanimously.

Spring / Jason

David Walkinshaw reported that the Selectmen approved the plans for Spring/Jason during their 5/19/2003 meeting. John Sanchez will speak with Ron Santosuosso about the plans, and will report back to TAC with an implementation schedule.

Critical Crosswalk Signs

Scott Smith summarized the critical crosswalks as falling into two categories

- Narrow streets without parking. Here we use fluorescent yellow green diamond pedestrian warning signs with a downward pointing arrow.
- Wider streets with parking. Here we continue to use the in-road signs.

John Sanchez said that these signs would be done after crosswalk painting is completed.

There was some discussion about when items should be brought to the Board of Selectmen for approval. General consensus was that

- Anything new or that changes the traffic rules must be brought to the Board. This includes new stop signs, new crosswalks or a major intersection redesign.
- Improving existing facilities (e.g. a warning sign, or making an existing crosswalk more visible) does not need to go to the Board.

Crosswalk Working Group

Larry Englisher reported that the group planned to have one more meeting, and would report at the June TAC meeting. John Sanchez expressed an interest in the planned guidelines, especially the part that indicates when to have a crosswalk.

Town Meeting

Ed Starr presented a draft town meeting handout, and asked for comments by e-mail. David Walkinshaw suggested presenting this at report time for Town Meeting, rather than during the presentation for Article 67.

Draft Bylaws

Ralph Elwell presented draft bylaws. The consensus was that the committee liked the draft. Scott Smith suggested that TransComm be changed to TAC. Ralph will prepare the finalized bylaws for presentation and approval by the Selectmen.

Pleasant Street

David Walkinshaw reported that the neighbors are happy about the chevrons and the restored 25 mph speed limit sign. The main complaint is about speeding, especially near the curve by Gray Street. Ideas suggested included

- Mirror to assist visibility for those leaving Monadnock Road (rejected as a maintenance headache)
- Enforcement
- Experiment for six months with a radar speed monitor on a telephone pole, visible to northbound traffic. Jim McHugh and John Sanchez will investigate the feasibility.

Hutchinson Road

Larry Englisher and Jim McHugh met with 4 residents (2 from Arlington and 2 from Winchester). The major concern is with speed. An issue is that the road is designated a Scenic Route, and has no sidewalks. 85th percentile speed going down the hill is about 35 mph. Ideas included:

- Sidewalks
- Trimming some of the trees that encroach upon the road
- Speed limit consistency (is now 30 mph in Winchester, 25 mph in Arlington)
- Stop signs on side streets

A resident offered to work with the country club to provide a better pedestrian path.

John Sanchez noted that on a scenic route, any actions with the trees would probably require a public hearing.

MBTA Service Planning Process

The MBTA is starting its service planning cycle for 2004, and is soliciting ideas from residents. Larry Englisher spoke with both Dave Barker and Maureen Trainor (Manager of Service Planning). No major changes are planned for Arlington. TAC members discussed the issue of continuing to have the 67 bus go up to Symmes. After some discussion the consensus was to leave that alone. Another suggestion was to relieve some of the rush hour crowding that occurs on Route 350 during the reverse commute to Burlington.

TAC Financials

Ed Starr reported that we had \$29,000 on the books, of which \$3,000 has been committed for the thermoplastic crosswalks. This leaves us with \$26,000. The consensus was to not do additional thermoplastic crosswalks immediately. This will leave some of the remaining funds available for speed tables and the like.

Alan McClennen Retirement

Ed Starr reported that Alan McClennen will be retiring on July 1st.

Measurement Status

Jim McHugh reported that a number of measurements have been completed, including several streets in the Symmes area, and Mass. Ave at Varnum.

Pace Car / ZipCar

Ralph Elwell reported that although it would be possible to introduce the Pace Car concept to Town Meeting, the major rollout should be this September (Town Day). He will prepare a schedule.

With the change in management at ZipCar, it has been on the back burner.

News

Scott Smith reported that he would be attending a Transportation Subcommittee meeting for Belmont Citizens Forum in early June. Belmont is considering changes to Trapelo Road similar to what we are considering for Mass. Ave.

Scott also reported that the next Mass. Ave. Corridor working group meeting would be on 6/11 in Fox Library. If Town Meeting is not over by then, it may be a short meeting. David Walkinshaw suggested we use something like the signs that are put out in Belmont to get the word out about these meetings. Many people, especially businesses, have no idea that changes are being considered.

John Sanchez reported that the Commonwealth is now saying we need to do an Environmental Notification Form for the Summer Street project. Asking for an ENF this late in the process is unusual, and could be a significant setback. Committee members suggested that good people to talk to would be Alan McClennen and Bob Havern.

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 PM.

Handouts:

Agenda, town meeting handout – from Ed Starr

Minutes from April 29, 2003 and Arlington Center Pedestrian/Bike/Bus counts – from Elisabeth Carr-Jones via Alan Jones

Draft bylaws – from Ralph Elwell